



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
CALIFORNIA DIVISION
980 Ninth Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA. 95814-2724

JUN 25 2003

IN REPLY REFER TO
HDA-CA
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Mr. Jeff Morales, Director
California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Attention: Federal Resources Office, Room 3500
For Kris Balaji, Transportation Programming

Dear Mr. Morales:

**SUBJECT: Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) Amendment No. 4 to the
2002/03-2004/05 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP)**

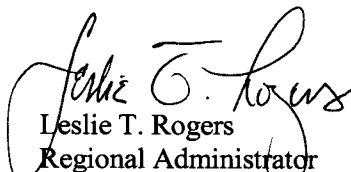
We have completed our review of Amendment No. 4 to MCAG's 2002/03-2004/05 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) that was submitted by your letter dated May 23, 2003. MCAG adopted this amendment via a Minute Order Resolution on February 20, 2003.


This amendment was requested by MCAG to add a new transit project and increase the CMAQ funding of an existing non-transit project. We accept this amendment in accordance with the provisions of 23 CFR Part 450. We find that this amendment was developed through a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process carried out in accordance with the provisions of 23 U.S.C. section 134, and section 8 of the Federal Transit Act (49 U.S.C. app. §1607).

Based on our review, the changes proposed to the 2002/03 FSTIP require no new regional emissions analysis for a conformity determination because projects included in this amendment are the type of projects listed in 40 CFR 93.126 or 93.127 as being exempt from regional emissions analysis requirements. We find that FTIP Amendment No. 4 conforms to the applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP) in accordance with the provisions of 40 CFR Parts 51 and 93 and in accordance with January 2, 2002, guidance *Revised Guidance for Implementing the March 1999 Circuit Court Decision Affecting Transportation Conformity* and the Environmental Protection Agency's May 14, 1999, guidance *Conformity Guidance on Implementation of March 2, 1999 Conformity Court Decision*. This finding has been coordinated with the Region IX office of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

This letter also constitutes approval and inclusion of MCAG's FTIP Amendment No. 4 into California's 2002/03 - 2004/05 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP).

Sincerely,


Leslie T. Rogers
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration


For
Gary N. Hamby
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

c:
MCAG FTIP Binder

c: (E-mail)
EPA Region IX, Karina O'Connor
FTA Region IX, Ray Sukys
MCAG, Terry Lewis
Caltrans:
 Connie Medina (District 10)
 Randy Steen, Federal Resources Branch
 Terry Abbott, Office of Local Programs
 Muhaned Aljabiry, Transportation Programming

bkz